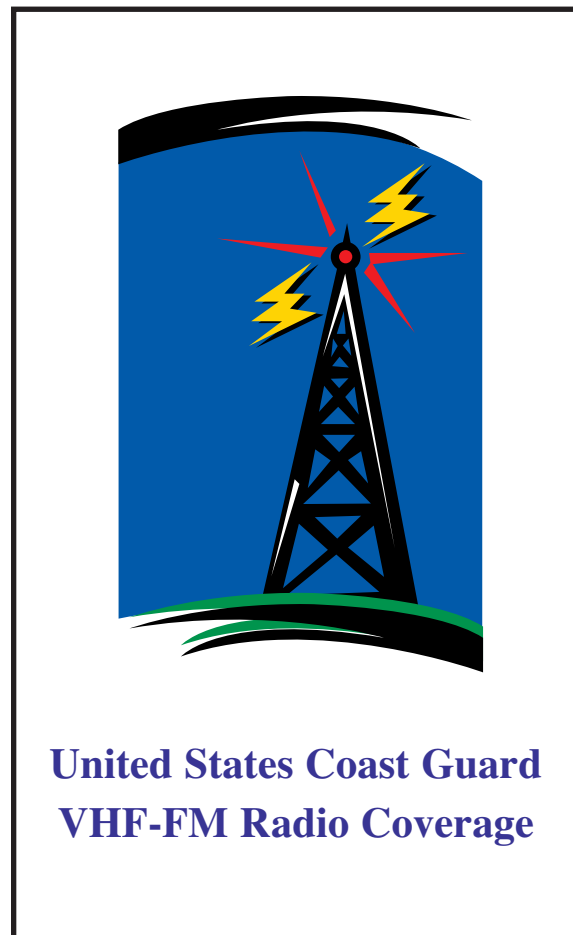


Prince William Sound Communications



Published summer of 2000

Overview:

This guide has been developed to aid you in your transit of Prince William Sound by providing a graphic representation of the Coast Guard's VHF-FM Radio coverage. The chart provided in this guide is not meant to replace your existing charts; nor should it be used to navigate the waters of Prince William Sound.

Communications:

Channel 16 is the International Distress and Hailing Frequency only. *No conversations please.* Initial contact is made on Channel 16, and then if more discussion is necessary the parties agree to switch to another channel. Channel 22A is for communication with the Coast Guard.

Making a "MAYDAY" Call:

"MAYDAY" calls are made only when one is in grave and eminent danger. Being weathered in or overdue is not a MAYDAY situation. For less severe situations call the Coast Guard or harbormaster using Channel 16.

Procedure:

1) On Channel 16 state: MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY, THIS IS (your vessel name here) repeat your name twice.

2) WHERE you are. Give the most exact information possible.

3) WHAT is wrong (collision, sinking, injured person, etc.).

4) NUMBER of persons in your party and the condition of any persons who are injured.

5) PRESENT SEAWORTHINESS of the vessel or vessels.

6) DESCRIPTION of vessel and all members on board (clothing and physical description).

7) Conclude: THIS IS (your vessel's name goes here). OVER.

Float Plan:

Vessels leaving the harbor and transiting Prince William Sound are requested to file a Float Plan (description of your plans while on the water until you are back to the harbor) with a family member and/or the local Harbormaster.

Marine Operator(s):

Prince William Sound also utilizes Marine Operators as a form of communications. The following operators are available:

Johnstone PT	Channel 24
Cordova	Channel 26
Whittier	Channel 27
Valdez	Channel 28

Note: They do not monitor Channel 16

Local Knowledge:

Inexperienced mariners may become disorientated and possibly lost. Follow your charts and note the local names for points and bays. It is further recommended that mariners consider the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Traveling in an unfamiliar area without a local chart or a special map is not recommended. It is advisable to seek local knowledge, even if you have a chart.

Communications Coverage:

This depiction is a graphical representation of the United States Coast Guard VHF-FM radio coverage for Prince William Sound.

The plot depicts the site's location and it's ability to receive an incoming signal from a 1-Watt handheld radio, 2 meters above sea level. The plot is computer generated and is an estimate of total coverage.

As previously stated, the chart provided in this guide is not meant to replace your existing charts; nor should it be used to navigate the waters of Prince William Sound.

As indicated on the associated chart, there are numerous areas within Prince William Sound where communications with a Coast Guard unit is not available. In addition, although not depicted, the use of cellular telephone within Prince William Sound is also very limited.

